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For Immediate Release

NEW LIBRARY COMPLEX FEATURES EARTHQUAKE TECHNOLOGY

MONTRÉAL / October 21, 1988 --- Concordia University's downtown library complex, opening in 1992, will feature the latest in earthquake-resistant technology.

Although Montréal is not considered earthquake-prone, even slight tremors can damage or destroy electronic databanks. Technology developed by Concordia Civil Engineering professor Avtar Pall, the President of Pall Dynamics Ltd., will protect the sensitive computer equipment Concordia will house in its new library.

Dr. Pall's "friction base isolation technique" uses a centuries-old engineering concept that isolates and dissipates vibrations at the base of a structure, leaving little energy to cause damage.

A series of sliding steel plates between the superstructure and the foundation are criss-crossed with a device that functions like brake pads on a car. When installed at strategic points in building joints, they provide friction to reduce up to one-third of the seismic energy generated during earth tremors.

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Dr. Pall began his research in 1977 while completing his doctorate at Concordia's Centre for Building Studies. He now holds patents in 10 countries on his earthquake-resistant technology.

Anti-seismic technology is not only a safe investment, he says, it saves on building costs because less money is spent on stiffening materials.

Existing building codes require only that buildings remain standing during an earthquake. Dr. Pall says that codes should be changed to ensure that building interiors are protected as well.

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Media representatives requiring additional information should contact DONNA VARRICA, Public Relations Officer, at (514) 848-4884.